THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) The United States does not "push" India and Pakistan to resume dialogue on Jammu and Kashmir. The United States, like many other friendly countries, maintains the position that India and Pakistan should resolve all outstanding issues, including the "Kashmir issue" through bilateral dialogue and not through recourse to violence. On 11 November, 2001, the U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell stated in a television interview, in response to a question on Jammu and Kashmir, "The two sides have to settle that and there needs to be a dialogue between Pakistan and India." He added that the United States "canot become the mediator, the arbitrator or the intermediary between them".

(b) Does not arise.

American Proposal to Enact Model Additional Protocol

†2656. SHRI DEVI PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that American administration is considering to enact a legislation called "Model Additional Protocol";

(b) if so, whether America may try to jam India's nuclear programme by empowering the International Atomoic Energy Agency (IAEA) through this legislation;

(c) whether America is trying to control India's peaceful atomic programme through the International Atomoic Energy Agency as India has not signed the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT); and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH):

(a) No such information has come to the attention of Government.

(b) to (d) The International Atomoic Energy Agency (IAEA) is an inter-governmental organisation which functions independently under its own Statute adopted in 1957 and its progrmme activities and budget are solely determined by its policy making organs, namely, the Board of Governors and the General Conference. A Model Additional Protocol was endorsed by the IAEA's policy

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

making organs in May 1997, to be concluded as a bilateral undertaking between the Agency and those Non-Nuclear Weapon States which are parties to its full scope safeguards agreements. Such a Model Protocol is meant to be obligatory on those Non-Nuclear Weapon States that are parties to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) or other similar international agreements, which are not applicable to India.

Indo-US Meting on Nuclear Issue

2657. SHRI KHAN GUFRAN ZAHIDI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indo-US meeting on nuclear issue is proposed to be held in December 2001; and

(b) if so, the main agenda of the meeting ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

India's Preparedness in view of Missile threat

2658. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "China is not our naturalally, we need long-range missiles : RSS" published in the Asian Age on the 27th October, 2001;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to address the problems highlighted in the report, particularly, the need to acquire nuclear weapons capability and to build up efficient nuclear weaponry for self-defence ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government constantly reviews all developments and is committed to taking all necessary steps to safeguard the nation's security in accordance with its own assessment of threats to security.